

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMA KO 04395 031924Z

65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

NEA-10 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FEAE-00 OES-06

ERDA-05 ACDA-07 /104 W

----- 115611

P R 031810Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5241

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 4395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ML XY

SUBJECT: AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH'S CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR

GENERAL TOURE

1. AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH CALLED NOV 29 ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL HALIDOU TOURE ACCOMPANIED BY DCM. MEETING TOOK PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE OF UNUSUAL WARMTH AND FRIENDLINESS. SMITH HAD MET TOURE ONE YEAR AGO AND TOURE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED AT SMITH'S RETURN. DURING COURSE OF HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION AT MFA AND LONGER LUNCH AT DCM'S HOUSE, SMITH AND TOURE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON VARIETY OF TOPICS: MALIAN REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON, MALI'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, SAHARA, GUINEA, NIGERA, UPPER VOLTA, UN AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

2. MALIAN REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON--SMITH NOTED THAT MALIAN AMBASSADOR SIMA HAD GOTTEN OFF TO GOOD START AND SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED TO SIMA THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR SAHELIAN AMBASSADORS TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES IN WASHINGTON TO FACILITATE PLANNING ON REGIONAL PROB-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAMA KO 04395 031924Z

LEMS. TOURE AGREED THIS WAS GOOD IDEA AND PROMISED TO

NOTIFY SIMA.

3. MALI'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS--TOURE SAID MALI ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH GUINEA COULD BE IMPROVED. THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS THE SAHARA. TOURE DOUBTED THAT OAU COULD HANDLE PROBLEM; HE SKIRTED MENTION OF ALGERIA-MOROCCO CONFLICT. MALI DID NOT TAKE INTERESTED POSITION, HE SAID. POTENTIAL DANGER WAS MOROCCO'S TALK OF A "GREATER MOROCCO." SUCH EXPANSIONIST TALK SHOULD BE AVOIDED, SAID TOURE. IT WAS MORE PROFITABLE TO TALK OF A "GREATER AFRICA"--SOMETHING WHICH WOULD BE REALIZED FAR SOONER THAN PEOPLE THOUGHT.

4. SMITH ASKED ABOUT GUINEA. TOURE SAID ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY LACK OF A RAILROAD BETWEEN CONAKRY AND BAMAKO. MALI WOULD LIKE TO SELL MORE TO GUINEA BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO EXPAND ITS EXPORTS. SMITH ASKED IF GUINEA WAS REALLY THREATENED BY ITS NEIGHBORS. TOURE SAID SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST HAD DIFFERENT ECONOMIC-SOCIAL SYSTEMS THAN GUINEA AND THEIR RELATIONS WERE REMINISCENT OF THE SIMILAR SPLIT IN EUROPE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST DURING THE COLD WAR. TOURE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET CERTAIN "DECLARATIONS" FROM GUINEA, BUT IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED, TOURE SAID, THAT ITS NEIGHBORS HAD IN THE PAST WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED GUINEAN EXILES SEEKING TO OVERTHROW SEKOU TOURE.

5. NIGERIA--SMITH ASKED ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF NIGERIA. TOURE SAID ITS IMPORTANCE WAS PRIMORDIAL, BUT INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS PREVENTED NIGERIA FROM PLAYING A USEFUL REGIONAL ROLE. IN ADDITION, DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE STATES MADE COOPERATION MORE DIFFICULT. BOTH SMITH AND TOURE AGREED THAT CEDEAO (ECOWAS) WAS IMPORTANT AND OFFERED POTENTIAL FOR GREATER UNITY.

6. UPPER VOLTA--THE TALK TURNED TO UPPER VOLTAN BORDER. TOURE SAID THIS HAD NEVER BEEN PROBLEM FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAMAKO 04395 031924Z

MALIAN PEOPLE. OFFICIAL PRESS AND RADIO HAD REPORTED ONLY MINIMAL ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON INCIDENTS AND THERE WAS NO PUBLIC OPINION ON SUBJECT. VOLTANS, IN CONTRAST, HAD INCITED TO HATRED OF MALI BY THEIR GOVERNMENT. A FUTURE EXCHANGE OF VISITS AT CHIEF OF STATE LEVEL WAS POSSIBILITY. IN ANY EVENT, PROBLEM WAS OVER, SAID TOURE. IT WAS ONLY A QUESTION NOW OF PREPARING (VOLTAN) PUBLIC OPINION FOR A FINAL

DECMARCATION OF THE BORDER.

7. UN--SMITH ASKED HOW TOURE EVALUATED CURRENT UNGA. TOURE SAID HE HAD NOT FOLLED IT CLOSELY AND ASKED SMITH HOW HE SAW IT. SMITH SAID IT WAS GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER 1975, PRIMARILY BECAUSE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SUCH AS PUERTO RICO AND KOREA HAD NOT COME UP, AND BECAUSE WORK WAS UNDERWAY ON MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES. SMITH EMPHASIZED THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WAS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY WERE RINGSIDE SPECTATORS TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT UN. GOM MUST UNDERSTAND US ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ISSUES IN WHICH ITS INTERESTS ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND FOLLOWS VOTES ON THESE ISSUES BY OTHER COUNTRIES CLOSELY.

8. AT LUNCH, TALK WAS MORE GENERAL BUT TOURE STRESSED POSSIBILITY OF AFRICAN UNITY--A UNITED STATES OF AFRICA, A CONFEDERATION OR SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENT. TOURE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FRANCE WAS MALI'S PRIMARY CREDITOR, WITH SOVIETS PROBABLY SECOND SINCE, AS TOURE EXPLAINED, THEY HAD SUPPLIED MALI WITH ITS AIR FORCE. TOURE SUPPORTED REPEAT SUPPORTED OPEC PRICE INCREASE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, I.E., SOLIDARITY WITH PRODUCERS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS INCLUDING PETROLEUM. HE GREW LESS SURE OF HIMSELF AS DISCUSSION CONTINUED. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE DID NOT HAVE GOOD GRASP OF ECONOMIC ISSUES AT STAKE.

9. COMMENT: SMITH VISIT CLEARLY CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVED US-MALIAN RELATIONS.
BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BAMAKO04395
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0335
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761272/aaaackod.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH'S CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL TOURE
TAGS: PFOR, ML, XY, (TOURE, HALIDOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006